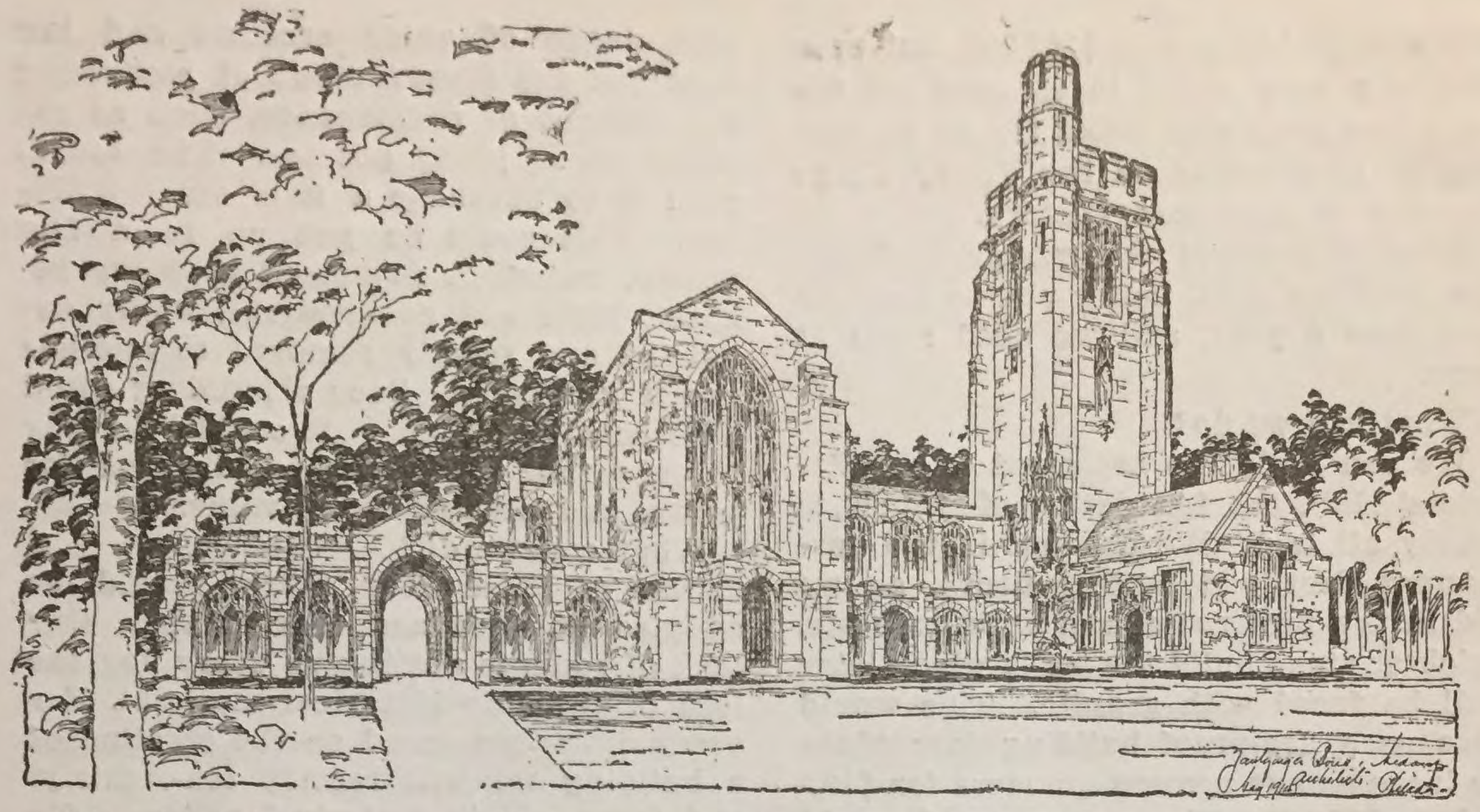
"For God and Country.



Cloister of the Colonies | Washington Memorial Chapel | Patriots' Hall | Tower and Library

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge.

A MONTHLY RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK, Editor and Publisher. The Defenders' Gate, Valley Forge.

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What Can We Do?

In a few weeks the springtide of visitors will set in, and thousands and thousands from all parts of the world will be our guests. The steady stream of tourists will pass through the chapel from morning to night, day after day. It will require two or three guides to point out the features of the chapel and explain its significance. The aisles and doorways made it possible to show the chapel to over 50,000 last season. We may expect more this year.

There is a constant inquiry now for the Museum. The fame of its treasures is nation-wide. The one fire-proof room is little more than a store-room. Day after day last summer it was packed with visitors. Two narrow aisles between the cases of relics and one doorway for both entrance and exit are utterly inadequate, for comfort, convenience or safety.

What can we do?

Here is the greatest institution of Valley Forge in crying need of space that its great work of instruction and inspiration may be done for the nation. Something should be done at once.

What can we do?

We can build the remainder of the Patriot's Hall. This will give us seven or eight times the present space, if we utilize the basement. At present prices

this will probably cost $100,000, but even that is a very small investment for the American people to make for an institution of such value as the Valley Forge Museum of American History.

Even if we had the money in hand, the Patriots' Hall could not be built in less than a year, and we need room at once.

What can we do?

We can build the basement of the Patriots' Hall, the foundation of which is nearly all laid. We can put in the permanent first and second floors, as we did in the first room, and with concrete, brick or stone build the walls which later will be faced with granite. This would give us a fire-proof building four times as large as our present quarters for $10,000 or $15,000. The money spent would be for permanent work. Iron frames could be set where the future tracery windows are to be placed, and the work could be done in a few weeks. This is a practical plan, with this great advantage that it would mean the removal of the frame structures adjoining the chapel which are unsightly in appearance and a real menace to the property.

What can we do?

There is a third plan well worth our consideration, and that is to erect a portion of a permanent museum building separate from the present group. Such a building could be erected along the lines adopted in the commercial and manufacturing world where the greatest space, light and protection from fire are secured at the least expense. Such a building could be erected for much less than the Patriots' Hall will cost and in a fraction of the time, as all decorative features could be added in the future. For $10,000 one or more units could be constructed, and additions could be made at any time. The building should be planned in relation to the administration group, the Washington Memorial, and in relation to future buildings which will be required for the needs of a rapidly growing museum of American history.

What can we do?

There is a fourth plan, which has the advantages of quick erection and low cost but the disadvantage of possessing no element of permanence, such as the other three plans possess. The fourth plan is to purchase a unit steel building. This could be put up in a few weeks, would be fire-proof in every respect, light and commodious, easily expanded and readily removed to another site if necessary. Such a building could be erected for $3,000. It could be ready for use this spring, and would last for years, and always be of value.

What can we do?

One of these four plans should be adopted at once asd carried out. Our lack of room is costing us every day the loss of valuable historical material. For every dollar we spend on the erection of a building we will receive ten-, thirty, and forty-fold in historical relics. To adopt any plan means effort, but effort will be a boon to the nation. Let us determine what we can do, and then do it at once.

Washington's Birthday.

The Boy Scouts of Montgomery and Chester counties will hold their eighth annual Washington birthday service in the Washington Memorial Chapel on Saturday, February 21, at 1.30 p. m. Dr. Burk will again make the address.

The Historical Society will meet at 3.30 on Saturday. It is expected that the Old Guard of the city of Philadelphia, of which Dr. Burk is honorary chaplain, will attend the service at 10.45 on Sunday morning. At 3.30 the Colorado state panel will be dedicated.

Christmas Waits.

The large choir of the Presbyterian church, of Port Kennedy, again were the Christmas Waits, filling the air of the early Christmas morning with their sweet music. Dr. and Mrs. Burk were not forgotten by their good friends, who went out of their way to greet them with their Christmas carols.

The Christmas flowers were given by the Washington Chapel Guild and were tastefully arranged by its president, Mrs. W. C. Wilson.

VALLEY FORGE LAKE.

A Plea for the Retention of a Beautiful Feature of the Park.

To the Editor of Public Ledger :

Sir—I am addressing this to you in the interest of preserving some of the natural beauty of the Valley Forge State Park,as I have just heard that the Park Commission is considering the drainage of the lake on this park. I do not think it is necessary for me to enlarge on the beauties of this lovely little lake nestling like a gem between the green hillsides, as any one who visits the park immediately realizes its charm and natural beauty. Viewed from the tower, the sight of this jewel, with its natural setting and its waters sparkling in the sunlight, is one of the lasting impressions the visitor carries away with him.

I have been a resident of Valley Forge for seventeen years and have very distinct and unpleasant recollections of the time when the present lake was empty, due to the breaking of the dam constructed across its outlet. In the winter it was an unsightly mud flat and in the summer a rank wilderness of weeds, cattails and reeds six to ten feet high, an unholy blot on the landscape. Does the Park Commission wish to return to this condition?

It says not and states that the land will be seeded to grass with a narrow channel for the stream. Of course, there can be an honest difference of opinion as to the respective merits and beauty of a lake or a grass plot, while the natural setting and local conditions may make all the difference in the world. However, there can be no difference of opinion as to the cost. The lake as established is a thing of beauty and costs virtually nothing to maintain. To drain the lake means demolishing the dam, which will leave some twelve or more acres to be put in grass. This means thorough drainage, plowing, sweetening the sour soil and seeding. Now any one who has ever attempted to establish even a small grass plot knows what this will mean in time and money. Granting that it is established successfully, what does it mean for maintenance? Cutting several times a season, if it is to be kept in any kind of order, and frequent applications of fertilizer. The commission has not been able to take care properly of the present improvements, and with the present scale of wages the outlook for a surplus of labor is anything but bright. In the face of this, laying considerations of sentiment and beauty aside, is it good business policy? I think any fair-minded citizen will agree that it is not and that this move is entirely uncalled for and unnecessary. The Park Commission has done several things that have called down on it bitter and just criticism, and I, for one, would like to know why it is necessary to spend the commonwealth's money to destroy the beauty of this naturally beautiful place.

This lake proposition might be summed up in this way: Most landscape engineers are willing to spend good money to build lakes. The Park Commission is more than willing to spend the taxpayers' money to destroy one. While the unfortunate part of this whole matter is that once destroyed it takes years to restore these assets of natural beauty, and perhaps it can never be done. As Joyce Kilmer so appropriately says:

"Poems are made by fools like you and me,
But it takes God to grow a tree."

It is my earnest hope that the Park Commission will consider well before further destruction is lightly engaged in.

B. F. BEAN, JR.

Valley Forge, January 9, 1920.

Mr. Bean's protest is a sensible plea for a most beautiful feature of the Valley Forge Park and is worthy of the careful consideration of the Valley Forge Park Commission. Its action is all the more incomprehensible since at one time we understand it contemplated the taking of the valley of Trout creek in order to restore the pond near the old mill. The argument for this was that in this way there would be a beautiful lake in the eastern and western sections of the park. Of course, if the mill dam be destroyed because it is modern, the road along the Valley creek should be destroyed too, for it is modern. The road by the pond is the most attractive feature of the park in the judgment of many visitors.

Washington Memorial Chapel,
Valley Forge, Pa.
THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK, B. D.
RECTOR

Residence, The Defenders' Gate, Valley Forge.
Telephone, Port Kennedy, 34.
Chapel Telephone, Port Kennedy, 49-R 4 and 35-R 14 (Sexton's Residence.)

The George Washington Window.

Work on the George Washington window is progressing most satisfactorily in the D'Ascenzo Studios, where this great work of art is being produced. Dr. Burk has described thirty-six scenes in the life of Washington and the cartoons prepared by Mr. Nicola D'Ascenzo faithfully depict the chosen subjects. Of course great care is being taken to have every detail correct, but in no case has there been any sacrifice of the artistic effect. It is now expected that the window will be in place by Washington's Birthday.

Wanted—A Letter.

The Museum has been offered an important letter of Gen. Nathanael Greene, written at Valley Forge. This should be added to our collection. Who will give it? It will cost $75. Prompt action will be required to secure it, and we should not lose it.

The Rhode Island Bay in the Cloister of the Colonies.

The Rhode Island Bay in the Cloister of the Colonies will be built by the patriotic societies of the state under the able management of the Colonial Dames of Rhode Island. At their invitation Dr. Burk went to Providence and delivered an illustrated lecture on Wednesday, December 17. On that date "The Providence Journal" printed a picture of the Washington Memorial and gave an account of the Chapel. On the next day it gave the following account of the movement to raise $7000 for the Bay:

"Preliminary plans for raising $7000 to erect the Rhode Island Bay in the cloister of colonies connected with the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge were discussed last night, following an illustrated lecture by Rev. W. Herbert Burk, D. D., in the Rhode Island Historical Society rooms.

"The Society of Coloniel Dames of Rhode Island has already received pledges amounting to $500, it was announced, and the aid of other patriotic societies of the state will be enlisted in securing the necessary funds.

"Rev. Dr. Burk was introduced by Henry D. Sharp, who traced the history of Washington's encampment at Valley Forge in that critical year of the Revolution and declared that the people can never erect too stately a memorial to Washington.

"In opening his address, which was accompanied by interesting stereopticon views, Rev. Dr. Burk paid tribute to Rhode Island's Gen. Greene. 'The debt the American people owe him for the part he played can never be paid,' he declared. He also took occasion to express thanks for the Rhode Island panel in the Room of the Republic.

"Owing to some friction between the commission in charge and the State of Rhode Island, an appropriation for a Rhode Island monument which was authorized by the Legislature has never been used, he said In this connection Dr Burk expressed the hope that Valley Forge would not be desecrated by too many statues to bring about 'such a hideous monstrosity as at Gettysburg.'

"Interior and exterior views of the Memorial Chapel, the cloister of colonies where the proposed Rhode Island bay is to be established and scenes of historical interest were shown While the chapel seats only 125, it has been known to hold 300, and the open air pulpit in the New York bay allows for big congregations to assemble. Dr. Burk said he has addressed as many as 10,000 in an open-air meeting at one time.

" 'Valley Forge was Washington's Gethsemane,' said Dr. Burk, 'and it is entirely fitting that some worthy memorial of a religious nature should be established there. While thousands have come there for picnic, we have been able to create a real shrine there.'

"Without any present encumbrances the

sm of $270,000 has been expended on the Memorial Chapel, and nearly $30,000 is being spent now. Dr. Burk said he felt sure that the $7000 to be raised for the Rhode Island bay will be secured without difficulty.

"Announcement was made that appeals have been sent out to 23 patriotic societies of the state and it is expected that a committee will be appointed from representatives of the various societies to undertake an active campaign for necessary funds."

This action of Rhode Island ought to stimulate South Carolina and Georgia, the only states not represented in the Cloister of the Colonies, to build their Bays. Neither of these states lacks either the patriotic spirit or the means required for such a memorial to their soldiers of the Revolution. The Cloister should be completed in the spring, and a concerted movement in these states would make this possible.

Bibles for the Sunday School.

Mrs. Frank P. Croft has given fifty dollars and Mrs. John S. Bioren five dollars with which to purchase Bibles and other supplies for the Sunday school. These are most timely gifts and are a great help and encouragement to Dr. Burk and the other members of the school. They have been greatly hindered by a lack of necessary equipment.

Our friends will find a visit to the school most interesting. Every Sunday, except during the summer, when it is too warm to close the windows, Dr. Burk gives a brief talk on the life of Christ, or the Bible, or Church history, or Missions, illustrating his instructions with lantern slides, many of which he has made for this purpose. The aim of the school is to give its members an education in religion. Its work should be better known and its privileges more enjoyed.

Mrs. I. Harris Metcalf entertained Dr. Burk on his recent visit to Providence, and by her courtesies added greatly to the pleasure of his trip.

The Colorado State Panel.

The Territorial Daughters of Colorado will honor their State by giving the Colorado State Panel in the Roof of the Repubic. The Panel will be dedicated on Washington's Birthday, which this year falls on Sunday. The service will be at 3.30 in the afternoon, and ail our readers are most cordially invited to be present.

Colorado is the twenty-third State to provide for its State Panel. All the Panels are in place, as they had to be built into the ceiling when the Roof of the Republic was placed. The price of each Panel is Five Hundred Dollars, and this includes the commemoration on the bronze tablet in the floor when these are cast and the endowment.

The following are the State Panels already given, arranged in the order in which they came into the Union:

Delaware.—Given by Mrs. T. P. Chandler, Jr.

Pennsylvania.—Mr. Richard Cadwalader.

New Jersey.—Mrs. Erastus Gaylord Putnam, in memory of Ellen Mecum, State Regent, D. A. R.

Georgia.—Mr. Charles Adamson.

Connecticut.—Miss Edith D. Kingsbury, in memory of Frederick John Kingsbury, 1823-1910.

Massachusetts.—Mr. S. W. Colton, Jr.

Maryland.—D. A. R. of Maryland.

South Carolina.—Mrs. Francis G. du-Pont.

New Hampshire.—Mr. Arthur Emmons Pearson and Miss Nella Jane Pearson.

Virginia.—A great-granddaughter of Edmund Randolph.

New York.—Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Rhode Island.—Patriotic Societies of Rhode Island.

Kentucky.—Patriotic Societies and Individuals in Kentucky.

Ohio.—Through the Daughters of the American Revolution of Ohio.

Louisiana.—Mrs. Charlotte H. S. Houston.

Illinois.—Patriotic Societies of Illinois.

Maine.—Mr. Henry D. Moore, who was born at Steuben, Washington Co., Maine.

Missouri.—The Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Missouri.

Michigan.—Through Patriotic Societies in Michigan.

Texas.—Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey, of Austin.

Minnesota.—Through the Colonial Dames in America of Minnesota.

Oregon.—Through Miss Failing, of Portland, Miss Failing being Vice-Regent for Oregon at Mount Vernon.

Colorado.—The Territorial Daughters of Colorado.

Mrs. George T. Harvey, Jr., of Denver, will present the Colorado Panel on behalf of the Territorial Daughters of Colorado.

The Peace Chime.

The Massachusetts Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, have made the first payment of $794.86 on the Paul Revere Bell. This is the first bell to be given for the Peace Chime which will some day ring out over the hills of Valley Forge. The bells range in price from $1000 to $5000, according to their weight. This price includes an endowment, as there should be a ringer present every day so that visitors may hear the music of the bells.

The Massachusetts Bell Committee, which is so successfully raising the money for the Paul Revere Bell, consists of the following Massachusetts Daughters of the American Revolution:

Mrs. Franklin P. Shumway, Chairman; Miss Isabel W. Gordon, Vice Chairman; Mrs. John B. Allen, Mrs. George Richard Blinn, Mrs. Sidney L. Burr, Mrs. Charles H. Crowell, Mrs. Frank B. Endicott, Mrs. Augustus A. Fales, Mrs. Nellie Rice Fiske, Mrs. Stephen A. Hall, Mrs. Stephen Perkins Hurd, Mrs. George C. Keyes, Mrs. J. Robert McKenzie, Mrs. Frank H. Metcalf, Mrs. Eugene A. Potter, Mrs. Arthur L. Power, and Mrs. George Starbuck.

Mrs. Alexander B. Cassatt.

The death of Mrs. Alexander B. Cassatt has brought sorrow not only to her family but also to a very large circle of friends. She was a woman whose influence was felt far and wide and few citizens of Philadelphia have done more for its welfare than she did. A leader in many of the movements for its betterment in the past years, she inspired confidence by her ability and sound judgment. At the time of her death Mrs. Cassatt was the chairman of a committee to raise two hundred thousand dollars for the endowment of the Chapel. She was deeply disappointed in the failure to reach the goal set for the drive on Washington's Birthday, 1919. In spite of her illness in the spring she went to Washington to make a personal appeal to the Colonial Dames, and as a result two thousand dolllars were given for the Endowment Fund. The society felt that this was an inadequate contribution, but hoped to increase it at a later period. Mrs. Cassatt was gratified at the cordial welcome given her by the Colonial Dames and was happy to add this substantial sum to the endowment so badly needed for the support of the religious and patriotic work of the Chapel.

The Valley Forge Historical Society.

The Valley Forge Historical Society's delegates to the annual meeting of the State Federation of Historical Societies were the Rev. W. Herbert Burk, President; Miss Margaret E. Zunser, Secretary; and Mr. and Mrs. Henderson Supplee, Mrs. Burk and Mr. Frank Quigg.

It is hoped that members of the Society will begin the new year by sending lists of nominees for membership to the Society. Talk to your friends about it, and forward their names to the Secretary. This should be a year of great growth.

Lafayette Mourning Cockade.

A mourning cockade worn in a procession of the Society of the Cincinnati in Charleston, S. C., in reverent memory of Lafayette, has been given to the Museum by Miss Sarah Franklin Greene, of Providence, R. I. It was worn by her great uncle, Christopher Rhodes Greene, the grandson of Col. Christopher Greene, who commanded the 1st Regiment Rhode Island Infantry, in Varnum's Brigade at Valley Forge. This interesting relic was exhibited in the Atlanta Exposition in 1895.

Christmas at Valley Forge.

It was a white Christmas at Valley Forge, with the hills covered with snow. There could not have been a more perfect day without, and within the Chapel all was joy and gladness. In the first place the Nation was at peace, if still debating the peace treaty. In the second place there was the largest congregation in the history of the Chapel on a Christmas Day. In the third place the choir filled the hearts of the worshippers with real joy through the beautiful music. From the first note to the last, when outside the Chapel the choir sang Holy Night, the music was well selected and admirably rendered. Miss Spangler sang a solo at the offertory, giving the congregation the first opportunity to hear her delightful solo work. The boy soloists, of whom she is justly proud, were Cooper Bishop, David Detwiler, Joseph Detwiler, Edward Murdy, Eric Pynor, Howard Terry, James George, Thomas Morgan and Charles Simmers.

On the following Sunday the music was repeated in the morning, and in the afternoon when the Sunday school held its festival the Christmas carols were sung. Dr. Burk, instead of making an address, told his latest Christmas story, a tale of Bethlehem.

Candy in abundance had been provided by the Hon. and Mrs. Frank P. Croft, who not only made our pupils glad, but saw that every child in Port Kennedy was supplied with Christmas candy. Owing to the exercises in the public schools on Christmas Eve, and an epidemic of children's diseases, the usual Christmas party given by Dr. and Mrs. Burk was omitted.

Rare Old Lace.

Mrs. Hampton L. Carson has given a very beautiful piece of altar linen. It is an unusually fine piece of lace made by the nuns of the Argentine and exhibited by the government of the Argentine at the Centennial exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. The formal presentation will take place at some future date, but the wonderful lace is on exhibition in the Museum.

Vestments for Our Choristers.

We need several new cassocks and cottas for the boy choristers. Who will give one or more?

The Victory Days.

Caesar Rodney Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, has appropriated two hundred dollars for the endowment of a Victory Day. This will commemorate either Caesar Rodney or the signers of the Declaration of Independence from Delaware.

This is the first Chapter of the D. A. R. to endow a Victory Day and thus provide the flowers for the altar of the Washington Memorial Chapel.

Many of the Chapters bear the names of heroes of the Revolution, and it would be a very fitting thing for such Chapters to mark the birthday of their patriot by the endowment of his or her birthday. There could be no more beautiful tribute than this perpetual provision of flowers for the annual recurrence of the birthday, nor a more appropriate place for the flowers than the Washington Altar at Valley Forge.

Many Chapters within reach of this great national shrine will doubtless plan to spend some part of the birthday commemorated at Valley Forge, and for such pilgrims, when desired, a special service will be held, or special prayers will be used at the mid-day intercessions for the nation, in which Washington's Prayer for the Nation is always used.

The Vestry had a large cast iron stove set up in the Martha Washington Log Cabin, and on Sunday, January 10, those who were at the Parish luncheon had a delightful surprise in its grateful warmth. The Cabin has heretofore been heated (?) only by a log fire in the great fire-place. Those nearest to it were more than warm, while those at a distance suffered from the cold. The gratitude of those present at the luncheon was genuine and was expressed in a vote of appreciation for this work of the Vestry, which has made this much-needed improvement.

A Memorial of Dr. William H. Bennett.

In the December number of "The Chronicle" there was a serious omission from the inscription in the volume given in memory of Dr. William H. Bennett. His great services in connection with St. Christopher's Hospital, Philadelphia, as Founder, President and Physician, were not mentioned. The correct form of the inscription is as follows:

"This volume is presented to the
Library of the Washington Memorial
at Valley Forge
by Mrs. William H. Bennett
in memory of her husband
Dr. William H. Bennett
Organizer, President and Physician in
charge of Children's Seashore House,
Atlantic City, N. J., from 1873 to 1919.

"Founder, President, and, from 1875 to 1893, Physician in charge of St. Christopher's Hospital, Philadelphia.

"Founder, President and Physician in charge of Seashore House for Invalid Women, Atlantic City, N. J.

"Entered into rest at the Children's Seashore House, May 14th, 1919, in the 76th year of his age.

"He has fought a good fight. He has been an heroic benefactor of man and of every form of suffering and helplessness; a great organizer and withal so modest and unobtrusive. He has been the good Physician, and helped the souls as well as the bodies of the multitude of the host to whom he has ministered. He surely has won his crown.

"May he rest in peace."

General Pershing to Be at Valley Forge.

The Huguenot Society of Pennsylvania will meet in the Washington Memorial Chapel on May 6, the anniversary of the celebration of the first French Alliance. General Pershing will be present and make an address.

The Rev. Dr. Burk spent a busy day at Atlantic City, N. J., Friday, January 9. In the morning he visited the High School, where he made three addresses to the students. In the evening he was a guest at a dinner of a boys' club at the Y. M. C. A. and made an address at the meeting which followed. At 8.15 he delivered his illustrated lecture on Valley Forge before the Fraters of the First Presbyterian Church. On the following Sunday he embodied in a sermon on Growth the remarkable work being done in the Atlantic City High School by Mr. Miller, the principal, and his efficient co-workers.

Dr Burk's Bible class and the choir united at Christmas in presenting him with a very beautiful Prayer Book and Hymnal for his use in the services in the Chapel.

Mr. William F. Fotterall has given to the Museum a curious hunting device in the form of a trap pistol. It consists of two barrels fired simultaneously by the pulling of a barbed lever, working through a third barrel placed between the others. A meat bait was placed on this barbed lever. In pulling at the bait the animal would release a powerful spring which acted as a hammer, and this would explode the percussion caps, firing the bullets into the head of the beast. There is a knob at the breach for a wire or chain used to fasten the trap to a post or tree. It is marked:

HARTFORD, CONN.
F. REUTHE'S PATENT.
MAY 12. 1857.

Mr. Fotterall purchased it in Maine last summer.

Mrs. S. R. Bartholomew has given the Museum an old English cannon wad. It is made of rope, and consists of a circle of heavy rope crossed by two lighter pieces firmly tied with cord. It is from the old Mantello Tower, at St. John's, N. B. It is accompanied by a picture of this interesting land-mark.

Since Dr. J. Ackerman Coles, of New York, gave the painting of Washington by Gilbert Stuart, more than fifty thousand visitors have admired this masterpiece. The fact that it belonged to Washington Irving adds to the interest of the famous portrait. It was formally presented on Washington's Birthday, 1919.